

(8) Continuing operations of a NASA installation at a level of effort, or altered operations, provided the alterations induce only social and/or economic effects but no natural or physical environmental effects.

(e) Even though an action may be categorically excluded from the need for a formal environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, it is not excluded from the requirement for an environmental analysis conducted during the earliest planning phases. If that analysis shows that the action deviates from the criteria for exclusion and it is concluded that there may be significant environmental effects, an environmental assessment must be carried out. Based upon that assessment, a determination must then be made whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement.

[44 FR 44485, July 30, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 9761, Mar. 25, 1988]

§ 1216.306 Preparation of environmental assessments.

(a) For each NASA action meeting the criteria of 14 CFR 1216.305(b) and for other actions as required, the responsible Headquarters official shall prepare an environmental assessment (40 CFR 1501.3 and 1508.9 of the CEQ Regulations) and, on the basis of that assessment, determine if an EIS is required; except where action meeting the criteria is strictly of a local nature under the purview of the Field Installation Director.

(b) If the determination is that no environmental impact statement is required, the Headquarters official or Field Installation Director, shall, in coordination with the Associate Administrator for Management, prepare a "Finding of No Significant Impact." (See 40 CFR 1508.13 of the CEQ Regulations.) The "Finding of No Significant Impact" shall be made available to the affected public through direct distribution and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or coordinated with the State Single Point of Contact pursuant to E.O. 12372, as amended, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," as appropriate.

(c) If the determination is that an environmental impact statement is required, the Headquarters official shall

proceed with the "notice of intent to prepare an EIS" (see 40 CFR 1508.22 of the CEQ Regulations). The Headquarters official shall transmit this notice to the Associate Administrator for Management for review and subsequent publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER (see 40 CFR 1507.3(e) of the CEQ Regulations). The Headquarters official shall then apply procedures set forth in 14 CFR 1216.307 to determine the scope of the EIS and proceed to prepare and release the environmental statement in accordance with the CEQ Regulations and the procedures of this subpart.

(d) Environmental assessments may be prepared for any actions, even those which meet the criteria for environmental impact statements (§ 1216.305(c)) or for categorical exclusion (§ 1216.305(d)), if the responsible Headquarters official believes that the action may be an exception or that an assessment will assist in planning or decisionmaking.

[44 FR 44485, July 30, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 9761, Mar. 25, 1988]

§ 1216.307 Scoping.

The responsible Headquarters official shall conduct an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in environmental impact statements and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The elements of the scoping process are defined in § 1501.7 of the CEQ Regulations and the process must include considerations of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts discussed in § 1508.25 of the CEQ Regulations. The range of environmental categories to be considered in the scoping process shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Air quality;
- (b) Water quality;
- (c) Waste generation, treatment, transportation disposal and storage;
- (d) Noise, sonic boom, and vibration;
- (e) Toxic substances;
- (f) Biotic resources;
- (g) Radioactive materials and non-ionizing radiation;
- (h) Endangered species;
- (i) Historical, archeological, and recreational factors;
- (j) Wetlands and floodplains; and